THE UNITED STATES
KARATE ALLIANCE
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UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE

BUSHIDO BULLETIN

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WHO ARE THIS YEAR'S DEFENDING NATIONAL BLACK BELT GRAND CHAMPIONS?

Jeff Crothers

Anna Gorman w/Guy Holtzman

Greg Holmes w/Tom Pisut

Sasha Jovanovic

At the 2006 National Championships the end of this month, you will want to keep your eye out for four Black Belts in particular. **Jeff Crothers, Anna Chalamidas, Greg Holmes, and Sasha Jovanovic** are the 2005 National Grand Champions who will be hoping to defend their titles at this year's Nationals.

Jeff Crothers, a student of **Karl Marx**, is a Keichu-Do stylist from Carlsbad, California. Just 24 years of age, he has already had his own school, Crothers Keichu-Do Academy, for 10 years. Mr. Crothers is a veteran competitor on the tournament circuit, and is known for his speed in both his hands and feet. As the 2005 Black Belt Men's Kumite Grand Champion, this will not be his first time in this position as he also won the title in 2002.

Anna Gorman is a five-time National Black Belt Women's Kumite Grand Champion, a feat unmatched by any woman to date, so she is no stranger to the National scene. She is a Shuri-Ryu stylist who trains under the instruction of her husband, **Mark Gorman**, who runs Mountain Eagle Karate Academy in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mrs. Gorman makes good use of her long reach and speed as she opens up her opponent with a kick and follows up with an overhand punch.

Greg Holmes operates his own school, the Bushido Academy, in Gilbert, Arizona. He is a member of the Alliance Hall of Fame and is a student under **Milt Calander** where he studies Shuri Ryu. Mr. Holmes is a dual defending Grand Champion as he took both the National Grand Champion Weapons Title and the National Grand Champion Kata Title. The National Kata Title was an especially unusual award last year as there were two Kata Titles awarded in 2005. The National Grand Champion Kata Title was also earned by Sasha Jovanovic.

Sasha Jovanovic was the defending National Kata Grand Champion in 2005 and will be hoping to defend his title again this year. Mr. Jovanovic is a Matsumura Seito Shorin Ryu stylist studying under **Mike Wall** in Phoenix, Arizona. He has won the title each time at Nationals performing the same kata – Supar Empi. He enjoys working this kata as he feels it is a tremendous workout, not just physically, but also mentally. On an interesting note, Greg Holmes performed the same kata this last year.

There will be much to watch during the run-offs and the Finals at this year's Nationals. You won't want to miss the action as Jeff Crothers, Anna Gorman, Greg Holmes, and Sasha Jovanovic take to the competition floor March 31st and April 1st at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North. We'll see you all there!

PROMOTION CONGRATULATIONS!

Matthew Frost	Orange Belt
Jonathon York	Orange Belt
Paige Waltman	7th Kyu Orange Belt
Kristin McPherson	Green Belt
Cameron Butler	3rd Grade Red Belt
Gary Polkowitz	1st Kyu Brown Belt
Eddie Waltman	1st Degree Black Belt
Brandon Pohlmann	1st Degree Black Belt
Michael Cogan	Sandan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rules & Referee Seminars and Score Keepers & Time Keepers Seminars:

New Mexico: A Rules & Referee and Score Keepers & Time Keepers Seminar will be held on Friday, March 31, 2006 during the USKA Nationals & Annual Seminar in Albuquerque, NM.

Texas: A Rules & Referee Seminar will be held in Dallas, TX during the World Championships in August 2006.

Hall of Fame Meeting:
The next Hall of Fame Meeting will be held at 8 pm Thursday, March 30, 2006 during the 2006 Nationals Tournament & Annual Seminar.

USKA Website:
The USKA Website has a whole new look! Please visit us online at www.uska.net!

Sympathies:
Our sympathies go out to the family of Richard McKennon of The Colony area in Texas. He held a 6th Degree Black Belt in Kenpo, and helped sponsor Mr. Galvan's Lone Star Karate Tournament in 2003. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Room Reservations:
Please call headquarters if you have any difficulty in making your room reservations at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North for Nationals.

Team Competitors:
Begin putting your teams together now for Team Kumite and Team Kata competition at the National Championships.

2006 RULE PROPOSALS Cont.

Proposal 13: Ref. 7.2.a
Eliminate the "required" 8 & 9 yr. boy/girl kumite split divisions. The tournament promoter should reserve the right to split if there are enough competitors but not mandatory for every USKA event. (Boys and girls may be combined for sparring).

Proposal 14: Ref. 7.2.a
Eliminate the "required" 8 & 9yr. intermediate sparring and kata division. The tournament promoter should reserve the right to have an intermediate division if there are enough competitors but not mandatory for every USKA event. (Only the split of beginner and advanced will be required).

Proposal 15: Ref. 7.2.a
Eliminate the "required" 10 & 11yr. boy/girl kumite split divisions. The tournament promoter should reserve the right to split if there are enough competitors but not mandatory for every USKA event. (Boys and girls may be combined for sparring).

Proposal 16: Ref. 7.2.a
Eliminate the "required" 10 & 11yr. intermediate sparring and kata division. The tournament promoter should reserve the right to have an intermediate division if there are enough competitors but not mandatory for every USKA event. (Only the split of beginner and advanced will be required).

Proposal 17: Ref. 7.2.a
Eliminate the "required" 12 & 13yr. boy/girl kumite split divisions. The tournament promoter should reserve the right to split if there are enough competitors but not mandatory for every USKA event. (Boys and girls may be combined for sparring).

Proposal 18: Ref. 7.2.a
Eliminate the "required" 12 & 13yr. intermediate sparring and kata division. The tournament promoter should reserve the right to have an intermediate division if there are enough competitors but not mandatory for every USKA event. (Only the split of beginner and advanced will be required).

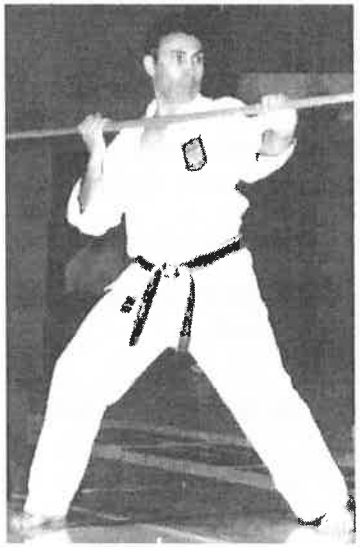
Proposal 19: Ref. 13.3.a
No competitor under the age of 16 should use a sharpened bladed weapon.

Proposal 20: Ref. 10.2
There must be a minimum of 4 feet between the ring boundaries and the spectator seats.

Proposal 21: Ref. 11.11.b
A sparring competitor must have at least one foot on the ground in order to score a hand technique. (A "flying backfist" is not a point.)

STEVE FLORES APPOINTED USKA NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Steve Flores of Santa Fe, New Mexico has been appointed the USKA State Representative for New Mexico. Mr. Flores has had a passion for the martial arts since he saw his first martial arts demonstration in 1983. He competed regularly on the United States Karate Association tournament circuit throughout the 1980's and continues to do so on the Alliance circuit. One of his fondest memories is that of **Grandmaster Robert A. Trias** presenting him with his promotion to 1st Degree Black Belt at the 1986 World Championships in Chicago, Illinois.



Steve Flores is now a 6th Degree Black Belt in Shotokan studying under the instruction of **Dick Rienstra** in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Flores' continued dedication to the martial arts, outstanding performances not only Kata, but also Kobudo and Kumite earned him a nomination to the Alliance Hall of Fame. He was then inducted into the U.S. Karate Alliance Hall of Fame at the World Championships in 2004. Mr. Flores operates his own school, the Karate Academy, in Santa Fe, New Mexico where he continues to train and share his knowledge of the martial arts with his students.

Mr. Flores will be holding his first USKA New Mexico State Championships in Santa Fe, New Mexico the 2nd weekend in November of 2006. So mark your calendars! We look forward to working with Steve Flores and furthering the martial arts in New Mexico.

United States Karate Alliance Hall of Fame,
An honor awarded for Spirited Fighting,
Outstanding Achievement, and Lifetime Dedication
to the Martial Arts.

2006 RULE PROPOSALS

Proposal 1: Ref. 7.1.b
The recommended guidelines for weight divisions shall be:
Black Belt Women
Light Weight 130 lbs & under
Middle Weight 131 lbs & up

Black Belt Men
Light Weight 159 lbs & under
Middle Weight 159-179 lbs
Lt. Heavy Weight 180-199 lbs
Heavy Weight 200 & up

Proposal 2: Ref. 7.2.b
An intermediate student is a 4th, 5th, 6th kyu, kup or grade, or have between 1-1/2 years to 4 years experience, whichever is most restrictive. Competitors with learning or physical special needs may petition headquarters for an exception.

Proposal 3: Ref. 7.3.a
There must be at least 4 competitors in each division of adult black belts in order for black belt divisions to be split.

Proposal 4: Ref. 7.2.a
The names of the youth divisions be changed as follows:
Tots (5 & under)
Children(6-7)
Youth (8-9)
Juniors (10-11)
Pre-Teen (12-13)
Teens (14-15)
Young Men & Women (16-17)

Proposal 5: Ref. 11.15.b
If a competitor, while executing a technique, should make contact to the opponent which inflicts any injury, damage, bruise, abrasion, redness of the face, swelling, laceration, fracture, dislocation, bleeding (except from a minor scratch in the adult brown & black belt divisions), unconsciousness, or any condition previously stated in these Rules, the competitor executing the technique will be disqualified if the contact is verified by the tournament officials. This penalty shall be called even if the injury is not immediately apparent and surfaces later in the match, but must be called prior to the beginning of the next match or prior to lining up for awards in the case of the last match of the division as long as the competitor has not left the immediate ring area. If the officials verify the competitor executing the technique inflicted injury to the opponent, the competitor will be disqualified.

Proposal 6: Ref. 11.15.i
The Center Referee may disqualify a competitor if there is blood (except from a minor scratch in the adult brown & black belt divisions), unsportsmanlike conduct, or major rocking of the head, without a majority vote of the corner judges, provided that the appointed arbitrator for the tournament concurs in the Center Referee's decision.

Proposal 7: Ref. 11.12.e
Face contact which results in major rocking of the head, bleeding, or produces swelling or injury, or results in unconsciousness, will result in automatic disqualification of the offender if the officials verify the competitor executing the technique inflicted the injury to the opponent. Injury is defined in 11.15.b.

Proposal 8: Ref. 11.12.f
Face contact is NOT allowed in any division below adult Brown Belt. Only focused points short of contact will be allowed. There are three calls when face contact occurs in all divisions below adult Brown Belt: (1) there is a touch, and a warning or point is awarded; or (2) when a second touch or rocking of the head is rendered, resulting in a point; or (3) when a penalty point has already been awarded, or swelling, bleeding, injury or unconsciousness, then disqualification occurs. If the officials verify the competitor executing the technique inflicted injury to the opponent, the competitor will be disqualified.

Proposal 9: Ref. 11.12
If a competitor is injured in a sparring match, such as excessive face contact which resulted in bleeding, the medical personnel will determine whether or not the injured competitor may continue in the next match. If the injured competitor is given clearance to continue fighting, the competitor must wear a protective face mask. Should bleeding reoccur in the next match the officials will determine whether the bleeding was the result of an excessive face contact blow by the opponent or from the previous injury. If the officials rule the bleeding did not result from an excessive contact blow, the safety of the injured competitor will be evaluated and the injured competitor may not be allowed to continue fighting. The same procedure would be followed for any reoccurring injury.

Proposal 10:
Delete Rules 11.13.d and 11.13.f

Proposal 11: Ref. 7.1.a
Change Senior Kyu Women Sparring from a Trial Division to a required division.

Proposal 12: Ref. 7.1.a
Change Senior Kyu Forms from a Trial Division to a required division.